

WANDERERS DOUBLE DEFEAT

WYCOMBE Wanderers' dream of reaching the final of the Anglo-Italian semi-professional tournament, dented at Pistoia on Saturday, were shattered in the heat of Teramo on Wednesday. Wimbledon will now be England's representative in Saturday's final against Monza, who will be playing on their home ground.

The Blues never recovered from conceding a goal after 30 seconds and another eight minutes later. After that, it was a lost cause and a third goal five minutes into the second half merely emphasised the greater skill and ability of the Italians.

It must be stated here and now that the Wanderers were just not good enough in their two matches. Without two or three regular first team members, they were made to look pedestrian by the silky ball skills of both Pistoiese and Teramo, particularly the latter.

I know this must be difficult for Wycombe fans to understand after watching the Italians at Loakes Park. But, believe me, they are totally different teams on home soil.

FINE PASSING

They use their possession well, their passing is spectacular and accurate while both Wycombe's opponents possessed players of unusually high class. But it was speed as much as skill that brought Wycombe's downfall at Teramo.

In Angeloni, they possessed a forward of rare pace whose side-stepping bemused everyone in the back four

— they knew it was coming but there was nothing they could do about it. Pelliccia was a similar threat and these two exposed the Wycombe defence time and again.

Although not an excuse it must also be said that Wanderers were ill-prepared for this game, as they were against Pistoiese. More travelling was involved and this time the players had to wait around for two hours in the town before travelling to the ground barely an hour before kick-off.

When the match got under way at 5.30 p.m., the temperature was already up in the eighties. Apart from the heat, conditions were fair. Teramo's ground was smaller and more compact than Pistoiese's and the pitch was well grassed but bone hard and bumpy underneath.

Sports Editor STUART EARP
reports from Italy

Teramo 3, Wycombe Wanderers 0



The tourists took the field with Peter Spittle in goal for the injured John Maskell and Terry Reardon back in mid-field. Facing a barrage of noise from one end, they kicked off and immediately lost possession.

Quick to spot any opening, Piccioni played the ball up-field to Pelliccia who ran into the box, cut inside John Delaney and then fired the ball past Spittle from six yards. The same player almost repeated the move a minute later and in the third minute Angeloni broke through only to be robbed by Spittle's fine save.

Any hope that things might simmer down after that hectic five minutes were soon dashed when Teramo carved out a second goal in the eighth minute. It was a long ball through the square back four that again did the

damage. This time Angeloni beat Alexander by cutting inside and then giving Spittle little chance with the shot.

WYCOMBE WILT

Wycombe wilted after that second goal and although there was no further scoring before half-time they seemed to know that their chance of a place in the final had already gone.

Teramo, still keeping five or six men back in defence, were worried only once by a Wycombe attack — when Howard Kennedy struck a free-kick on to the post with Casagrande beaten.

The Italians wasted no time in drilling another nail into the coffin. Only five minutes of the second half had gone when Pellicci sprinted on to Piccioni's

flighted pass and rammed in a shot that struck Delaney before flashing into the net.

One couldn't help feeling for the Blues who worked hard but saw all their efforts go to waste mainly through poor passing. There were not many successes on the day but newcomer John Priestley toiled away as did John Butterfield and Reardon.

Delaney went up front for a time in the second half but all the action was at the other end and only a brilliant save by Spittle foiled the ever dangerous Angeloni after another rapier-like strike. A few minutes later the tall number 11 did it again but crashed his shot against the crossbar.

Priestley almost pulled back a goal with 15 minutes left when he got in a shot after Casagrande had fumbled Easton's corner, but Nicolucci headed off the line.

Both teams tired in the broiling heat towards the end. Wycombe were really going through the motions in the last five minutes before a good referee brought the closure.

Wycombe will have learned many things from this tournament but above all they now know that a tour and competitive matches don't mix. Wycombe did their best, trained hard and were out here to win. In the end however they were outplayed by their hosts.

TERAMO: Casagrande, Palandrani (sub. Nicolucci 57 mins), Sabbadini, Posocco, Canestrari, Esposito, Diodati, Piccioni, Pelliccia, Vulpiani (sub. Ferreo 57 mins), Angeloni. Subs. Soina and Penzi (not used).

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, D. Alexander (sub. R. Davies), K. Mead, D. Delaney, J. Priestley, T. Reardon, H. Kennedy, J. Butterfield, D. Evans (sub. P. Watson 72 mins), S. Perrin. Subs. J. Maskell, M. Gilligan (not used).